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## THE FREE SOUTH.

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### THE CELEBRATED BRANNAN DIVORCE

**CASE.**—General John M. Brannan has obtained a decree of divorce from his wife, Eliza Brannan. The petition on which this case came up was filed at the January term of court, and sets forth that the petitioner was married at Fort Columbus, New York, on September 16th, 1850, to Miss Eliza Crane; that the issue of his marriage was a daughter, Alida L. F. Brannan, born July 28th 1851; that his wife mysteriously disappeared from the residence of her mother, Mrs. Col. Crane, Staten Island, July 20th, 1858; that he made diligent search for her, but without success, until the spring of 1860, when he received information that she was residing in Italy with Powell T. Wyman, of the United States army. The petition is accompanied by an affidavit of Dr. C. H. Crane, United States army, brother to the respondent, setting forth among other facts, that he had received a letter from Wyman, dated at Paris, in which he stated he had married his sister, and that they were living together as man and wife. Wyman resigned his commission in the army and returned with Mrs. Brannan to Boston; but his friends persuaded him to accept another commission, and he came out in command of one of the Massachusetts regiments, and was killed at Fair Oaks, being shot through the heart. Mrs. Brannan, we understand, still resides in Boston. Walter S. Cox appeared on behalf of General Brannan. Below we insert the decision of Chief Justice Carter in the case. It will be seen that the Chief Justice is justly severe on the infamous conduct of Mrs. Brannan:

In the case of General Jno. M. Brannan against Eliza Brannan, the court has concluded to grant a decree of divorce. If there be any defect in the testimony at all, it is in that branch of the case where it would have been most easy to have acquired it, viz: regarding the proof of the marriage. But the court thinks there is sufficient evidence of cohabitation, and recognition of marriage in the offspring, apart from the proofs of the mother and the brother, to justify a decree of divorce.

The case briefly shows that in 1850 John M. Brannan married the defendant, then a girl bearing the name of Crane, both of whose names are connected with the military service of the country, and very respectably connected. That they lived together from 1850 to 1851, when the birth of a daughter occurred, the only fruit of this marriage. That they continued from 1851 to 1858 in the nominal relation of husband and wife. That the wife in 1858, under one of those strange and wicked caprices that set a defiance the vows of marriage and the obligations of honor, of respectable parentage and respectable kindred, broke loose from her marriage relations, and took up her abode with a Mr. Powell T. Wyman, a captain in the United States army, who has since gone to his grave. That she afterwards resided in France, and during this period lived and cohabited with, and married the said Wyman, taking his name, and return-

ing to this country under his title—braving public opinion, and withal disregarding the moral sense of propriety of society in the country in which she was raised.

It appears that General Brannan—and this is the most painful feature of the whole case—regarding his wife with confidence and affection, and supposing her to have committed suicide in a paroxysm of insanity, or to be wandering about in a demented state, exhibited the greatest anxiety and agony at her mysterious disappearance and expended his time and money in raking the lakes and advertising in the highways to ascertain her whereabouts, and if possible, to recover her, in which efforts he was actively assisted by his wife's mother and brother.

During all this time, it appears, she was coolly speculating in prostitution on the other side of the Atlantic; that, knowing of this great anxiety and agony on the part of all her kindred and husband, she refused to disclose her whereabouts. It was nearly two years before the facts came to light. I look upon this as one of the most aggravated and one of the most cruel instances of infidelity upon record, and do not hesitate to decree a divorce, to General Brannan with the restoration to him of all the rights of an unmarried man and the custody of the only offspring of this marriage. The decree, however, had better, perhaps, be nominally amended—not exactly rejecting the Latin, (for that mode of expression does not add any force,) but setting forth that he is restored to all the rights of a single man, in plain English; for a hundred years hence, every person may not understand what “*a vinculo matrimonii*” means.

### News and Miscellaneous Items.

The most amusing charge brought against the north by any of the rebels is that which the *Raleigh Progress* makes against the northern ladies, that they are dressed better than ever before, and that too in the spoils of southern homes. One would now about as soon think of plundering a South Sea Islander's hut as a rebel planter's house for a wardrobe. We are sure that no lady here would confess that Mrs. Jeff. Davis No. 7 gloves could be of any use to her.

The Polish correspondent of a London paper says that the Russian soldiery much prefer fighting against insurgents without uniforms than with, because they can sell plain clothes to the Jews, and that their custom is when they see a citizen in the distance first to shoot him and then inquire if he is an insurgent. He adds that the Russian soldiers are anxious for this and similar reasons to have the insurrection continue.

It is stated that over two hundred imitations of pennies have been put in circulation within the past few weeks. A popular marketman in Washington market, New York, a few days since, had made a collection of 135 varieties, and then abandoned the attempt in disgust, so abundant and constantly increasing was the supply.

The iron-clad Galena is now at the Philadelphia Navy-Yard. Her coat of mail will be taken off, and the vessel will be thoroughly inspected, and, if found expedient, will be repaired in the strongest possible manner. The necessary work will be commenced at once, and the Galena will be floated upon the sectional docks within a week.

The savings banks of New York State now hold seventy-six millions of dollars deposited by the laboring classes, which is an illustration of the prosperity which Northern “mudsills” are enjoying. Where can we look in the “chivalric” South for such another statement.

Lytton remarks that “in every city, town, and street, and lane, there are bustling, officious, restless persons, who thrust themselves into public concerns, with a

loud declaration that they are animated only by the desire of public good; they mistake their fignitiness for philanthropy.”

In a speech at New York, Monday evening, Wendell Phillips made a very good “hit.” Referring to General Hooker, he remarked: “Men say he has faults—faults which some of his predecessors did not have. Perhaps he has, but in my opinion a diamond with a flaw is better than a pebble without!”

Work on the new batch of monitors goes on rapidly and satisfactorily. As a class they will be superior to those used in the recent attack on the defenses of Charleston—several improvements having been introduced which were suggested by the issue of that encounter. In Jersey City, the monitor workmen, who struck some days ago, have all gone back to their labors, and there is no prospect of another outbreak.

The island governors in the West Indies understand very well what a “fat thing” the southern rebellion has been to them. The governor of Bermuda, in his speech at the recent opening of the legislative session, makes this frank avowal: “I am glad to be able to acquaint you that the revenue of the last year shows a very satisfactory result. There is no doubt but that this is largely due to circumstances of an exceptional character, arising out of the existing state of affairs in the neighboring continent of North America, and it will be unwise not to be prepared for the reaction which must ensue on their rearrangement.”

A number of French officers have temporarily thrown up their commissions in the French army to go and fight on the side of the Polish insurgents. In this respect the policy of the French Government is very different now from what it was in 1831, when Louis Philippe published an address to the army, in which he gave out that no officer who resigned his commission to serve in Poland should, under any circumstances, be readmitted into the service. Besides French, there are numerous Italians, Hungarians, and not a few Bohemians, who are, in many respects, very nearly allied to the Poles.

A correspondent with the army of the Rappahannock learns from reliable authority, that whenever our men are discovered by the rebels, and they are found to have upon them the Kearney red patch, if wounded they are kindly cared for, and if dead are buried with all the honors of war, their graves so marked as to be readily recognized. Colonel McKnight, of the One Hundred and Fifth Pennsylvania, was so buried, his body followed to the grave with a guard of honor, many officers being present. A band played a funeral dirge, while over his grave were fired the usual salute due to an officer of his rank.

About a hundred of the 20th New York, two years' regiment, who refused to cross the Rappahannock to the late attack on Fredericksburg, on the plea that their term of enlistment had expired, were court-martialed, and sentenced by their division commander, Gen. Howe, to hard labor during the war, with a forfeiture of all money due them by the government.

A letter from Monticello, Kentucky, speaking of the manner in which the people received our troops in their recent advance on that place, says:

“One old lady, a mile beyond this place, said, as she saw our columns rushing on after the rebels: “When I see the old flag comin', I jist throwed my old

bonnet on the ground and stomped on it.”

Vallandigham, on his trial, let out the fact that Fernando Wood has been corresponding with the rebels at Richmond in relation to terms of peace. Fernando has often asserted that somebody had had communication with Richmond, but was always careful not to commit himself. As it is a criminal offense to correspond with the enemy in time of war, he may yet get into trouble as well as his friend.

The venerable John J. Crittenden has been renominated for Congress. In a speech at Frankfort on Tuesday, he declared himself for the prosecution of the war, “without the armistice, and regardless of foreign intervention, till the rebellion is crushed. It was the duty of freemen to first save the country from the uplifted sword, and then save the constitution.”

On the 13th ult., there were seven thousand two hundred and fifty Union prisoners of war in Richmond. Of these five thousand nine hundred and fifty were taken at the recent engagements in the vicinity of Fredericksburg. We shall expect soon to see another retaliatory message from Jeff. Davis.

The Tycoon of Japan has sent a coat of mail as a gift to the President. Mr. Lincoln has not yet donned the new suit, but when he does the reader can imagine Old Abe dressed up with an umbrella shaped helmet, made of steel and copper, on his head, copper visor over his eyes, and a chain of copper chain work on his arms, metallic breastplate, and steel network leggings.

Gen. Burnside is building a military railroad out toward Danville, Ky. This should have been done long ago, so that our base of operations could have been at Somerset, instead of Louisville and Cincinnati. The work is being pressed forward with great activity.

The exercise of the powers given the Medical Inspectors of the army to discharge soldiers for disability, is suspended until their duties in this respect are defined by regulations to be published hereafter.

The Washington correspondent of the *New York Post* says that the national debt on the 8th inst. reached nine hundred and eighty-four million dollars, including four hundred million dollars of legal tender notes.

Goethe said that Byron came by his best verses as a woman comes by her handsome children; accidentally, and not by thinking of them.

Mirabeau, when asked by a friend, which was the better, the single or the married state, replied, “Whichever resolution you come to, repentance will follow.”

The poet Gray epitomized philosophy in these words, “To find one's self business is the great art of life. The secret of happiness is to be constantly employed.”

As examples of absurd images, Charles Lamb mentions an elephant in a coach-office, coming to have his trunk booked, and a mermaid over a fish-kettle, cooking her own tail.

It is stated that Gens. Grant and Pemberton were, some years ago, both Lieutenants in the regular army, and belonged to the same regiment. They were stationed at Detroit.

The Bangor Times says there was a fall of snow there on the 7th inst., and the Providence Bulletin says the ground was white with frost on the low lands at Cumberland, Rhode Island, on the 9th inst.